

# ASSEMBLY, No. 5479

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MARCH 17, 2021

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblyman JAMES J. KENNEDY**

**District 22 (Middlesex, Somerset and Union)**

**Assemblyman STERLEY S. STANLEY**

**District 18 (Middlesex)**

**Assemblyman ANTHONY S. VERRELLI**

**District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

**Assemblywomen Vainieri Huttle and Lampitt**

**SYNOPSIS**

Requires each solid waste management district to develop strategy in solid waste management plan to reduce food waste.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/24/2021)**

1 AN ACT concerning the reduction of food waste and supplementing  
2 P.L.1970, c.39 (C.13:1E-1 et seq.).

3

4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State  
5 of New Jersey:

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7 1. a. No later than two years after the effective date of this  
8 section, each solid waste management district in the State shall  
9 develop and implement a strategy for reducing, by the year 2030,  
10 the amount of food waste generated annually in the district by at  
11 least 50 percent of the amount which is generated in the year this  
12 section takes effect. The strategy shall be adopted as an amendment  
13 to the district solid waste management plan required pursuant to the  
14 “Solid Waste Management Act,” P.L.1970, c.39 (C.13:1E-1 et seq.)  
15 and subject to the approval of the department.

16 b. No later than 180 days after the effective date of this section,  
17 the department shall develop, and publish on its Internet website, a  
18 list of measures solid waste management districts can take in order  
19 to achieve the food waste reduction requirement established in  
20 subsection a. of this section. Such measures shall include, but need  
21 not be limited to, measures to increase the donation of surplus  
22 edible food, the source separation and recycling of food waste,  
23 composting and anaerobic digestion of food waste, and public  
24 awareness campaigns.

25 c. As used in this section, “food waste” means food processing  
26 waste, food processing residue generated from processing and  
27 packaging operations, overripe or spoiled produce, trimmings from  
28 food, food product over-runs, soiled and unrecyclable paper, and  
29 used cooking fats, oil, and grease.

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31 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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#### STATEMENT

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36 This bill would require each county to develop, as part of its  
37 district solid waste management plan, a strategy to reduce food  
38 waste in the district.

39 According to the United States Department of Agriculture  
40 (USDA), approximately 40 percent of the United States food supply  
41 goes uneaten each year due to losses at the farm, retail, and  
42 consumer levels. The vast majority of this food waste ends up in  
43 landfills, where it takes up valuable landfill space and emits  
44 methane, a potent greenhouse gas contributing to climate change.  
45 At the same time, over 14 percent of United States households  
46 struggle to put enough food on the table, leaving 49 million  
47 Americans, including 16 million children, at risk of going hungry.

1 It is estimated that the food saved by reducing losses by just 15  
2 percent could feed more than 25 million Americans each year.

3 In 2015, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the  
4 USDA announced a national goal of reducing food waste by 50  
5 percent by the year 2030. In 2017, the New Jersey State Legislature  
6 passed P.L.2017, c.136 (C.13:1E-226), which established a similar  
7 goal for the State. To meet that ambitious goal, this bill would  
8 require each solid waste management district in the State (i.e., each  
9 county and the Hackensack Meadowlands District) to develop and  
10 implement a strategy for reducing, by the year 2030, the amount of  
11 food waste generated annually in the district by at least 50 percent  
12 of the amount which is generated in the year this section takes  
13 effect. The strategy would be adopted as an amendment to each  
14 district's solid waste management plan and subject to the approval  
15 of the department.

16 The bill would require the Department of Environmental  
17 protection to develop, and publish on its Internet website, a list of  
18 measures solid waste management districts can take in order to  
19 achieve the food waste reduction requirement established in the bill.  
20 These measures would include actions to prevent food waste and  
21 increase the donation of surplus edible food, the source separation  
22 and recycling of food waste, composting and anaerobic digestion of  
23 food waste, and public awareness campaigns.